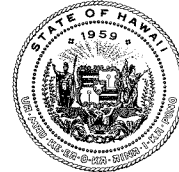




**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX**  
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**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378



Mr. Ernest Y. W. Lau, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer  
Board of Water Supply  
City and County of Honolulu  
630 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96843

Dear Mr. Lau:

Thank you for your December 3, 2015 letter with recommendations for the Red Hill Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) work plans and follow-up input dated December 14, 2015. We value the input of the Board of Water Supply as a critical stakeholder in the work at Red Hill. As you know, the AOC includes a commitment "to seek the technical advice of subject matter experts, such as the Honolulu Board of Water Supply." We regret that we were unable to resolve differences over the non-disclosure agreements needed for full participation in the initial scoping meetings held during the week of November 30, 2015. However, it is our intent to find other means for obtaining your input.

Many points you raise were discussed during the scoping meetings and will be further considered during the development of various scope of work deliverables required by the AOC. The scoping phase for sections 6 and 7 of the AOC Statement of Work is expected to conclude shortly. The documents developed as part of the scoping meetings, including background presentations, will soon be posted to the websites of EPA and DOH and we will inform you when this occurs.

The scoping phase for sections 2 and 3 is continuing. Although we made significant progress during our December meetings, we opted to allow for further discussion of these tasks amongst the Navy's and Defense Logistics Agency's experts and conduct an additional scoping discussion in late January. We anticipate that scoping of these sections will conclude in

February. A summary from the December scoping meetings for these sections will also be posted on the Agencies' websites. Scoping for section 8, the risk and vulnerability assessment, also continues. Based on initial scoping discussions, Navy and Defense Logistics Agency plan to obtain additional expertise in this area, therefore this scoping will take longer.

Finally, we soon expect to approve final outlines for initial reports due under sections 4 and 5. These activities did not require a scoping meeting. We will also post these outlines to our websites.

During scoping, the parties arrived at preliminary agreements on the direction for various elements of the work to be performed under the AOC. These preliminary agreements are not finalized until they are incorporated into the required scopes of work and approved by the Regulatory Agencies. In addition, these and other deliverables under the AOC will address the additional information requested in your December 3, 2015 letter as part of work being conducted to compile relevant historic information. The content of the scope of work can also be modified based on stakeholder input. To facilitate your input, we recommend scheduling a call with all the parties to the AOC and appropriate Board of Water Supply representatives to discuss your input to date and the results of the scoping meetings.

We look forward to an ongoing dialogue with Board of Water Supply on the work at Red Hill. We will be in touch soon to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Bob Pallarino,  
U.S. EPA Region IX

Steven Chang,  
Hawaii Department of Health